

Subject: New Co-occurring Disorders Working Group

From: Cindy Castro

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Good afternoon,

The following message is from the desk of District Attorney Jackie Lacey:

It has been suggested that we need a working group to identify and expand alternative placement options for those who need treatment for mental illness and substance abuse. This is a worthwhile effort. According to the Department of Mental Health about 80% of people with a mental illness are also addicted to drugs or alcohol. Many of the places available for treatment address one issue to the exclusion of the other. According to Holly McCravey from the Department of Public Health there are only 1500 treatment beds currently in Los Angeles County. There are plans and funding to create more treatment beds but perhaps a working group could come up with a plan to make recommendations on where those beds should be created. If you have useful information or experience, and are interested in serving on the group, please email Cindy Castro. Your name must be received no later than January 25, 2016. We will call this working group the "Co-occurring Disorders Working Group".

Thank you,

Jackie Lacey,
District Attorney

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